

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S.520**

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TO: The Honorable John E. Courson, Chairman, Senate Education Committee  
FROM: Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board  
ANALYSTS: Torina Wood, Trey Kannaday, and K. Earle Powell  
DATE: March 24, 2009 SBD: 2009286

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AUTHOR: Senator Ford PRIMARY CODE CITE: 59-63-610  
SUBJECT: South Carolina Educational Opportunity Act

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ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:  
A Cost to the General Fund (See Below)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:  
\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

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**BILL SUMMARY:**

Senate Bill 520 amends the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, to among other things, enact the "South Carolina Educational Opportunity Act" by adding Article 6 to Chapter 63, Title 59 so as to provide that a student is eligible to receive a scholarship or tuition grant and a person who pays tuition for that student is eligible for a tax credit.

**EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:**

State Budget and Control Board

The Bill requires the State Budget and Control Board in Section 59-63-650 (A) to annually provide for the preparation of a report on the fiscal impact of the implementation of this article on school enrollment and state and local funding of public schools for the fiscal year most recently completed. The Board estimates a cost of \$412, 510 and 5.00 FTE positions to complete these duties. In addition to the annual report, Section 59-63-655 states that the Board shall provide for a long-term evaluation of the impact of this article. The evaluation must be conducted by contract with one or more qualified persons or entities with previous experience evaluating school choice programs and must be conducted for a minimum of five years beginning five years after enactment of this article. The Board estimates an annual expenditure of \$400,000 for 5 years to fulfill the requirements of this Section. Therefore, the State Budget and Control Board estimates total annual expenditures under this Bill at \$812,510.

Department of Revenue and Department of Education

Both Departments report this Bill will have no fiscal impact on the General Fund of the State or on Federal and/or Other funds.

**SPECIAL NOTES:**

The Board of Economic Advisors is the appropriate entity to address any revenue impact associated with this Bill.

Approved by:



Harry Bell  
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget